

Covering Reporting Period of April to September, 2018

Welcome to the Fall Board of Director's meeting and Annual General Meeting for The King's University Foundation! We look forward to having you on campus and celebrating the success of the past year.

I always look forward to my regular meetings with Marta Gomez, Executive Director and the passion and inspiration she brings to her role. I am excited for the vision that the Foundation has for growth in membership; and the campaign to expand the financial aid support for students at The King's University. Recently I posted on my Facebook page about the Foundation's dedication to providing scholarships and bursaries that enable prospective and current students to thrive at King's. A student responded to that post with this note: *"They sure do. The bursaries I receive while studying at The King's University make my education possible. Without them, I would be forced to choose between time with my children and having to work to provide essentials while at school. I am so grateful for everything. Thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart."* That's just one story of how your faithful financial support makes such a difference in the lives of students. I look forward to continuing to see good fruit from the development and outcome of your initiatives.

I would like to share an update that was provided at the Fall 2018 Board of Governors meetings held this past weekend as follows:

Financial Sustainability

We have had a positive start to the academic year. Academic and administrative leadership came together mid-August to work on the challenges identified by the Institutional Financial Sustainability Taskforce this past spring. We will focus on two leadership challenges this year. The first will be to address the university's recognition problem. A recent marketing survey by Academica has underscored the impression that King's is not widely known. Our second focus will be to increase enrollment substantially – 1,000 students by 2019. The Foundation's goal of contributing to 100 Futures could not be timelier. At the Board meeting we discussed how to tackle both becoming more known and the increase to enrollment.

Inclusive Excellence

It is important that we come to resolution regarding a statement of inclusive excellence at King's. Not having a statement leaves conversations with donors at a stalemate. It also leaves me, as President, in a precarious position representing the university with churches, Universities Canada and the federal and provincial governments. There is a move federally towards linking research funding from the Tri-Council to equity for designated underrepresented groups. These groups include women, people with disabilities, aboriginal people, visible minorities and LGBTQ2 persons. We spent a half-day on Friday in a Board workshop and progress was made on a draft statement. We are currently working on a communication strategy which will involve an invitation to dialogue in the days and months to come.

Board Governance

The Governance Committee and Board Executive have made excellent progress in the redesign of our Board committee structure. We spent time reviewing the new committee structure and draft mandates. I look forward to this year as we change the structure to strengthen the Board's ability to ensure The King's University fulfills its Mission and to strengthen the connections with our supporting community.

Executive Team

We welcomed a new Vice President Finance & Operations to King's this past month. I am looking forward to introducing you to Ralph Troschke. I am excited about the depth of knowledge and experience he brings to the role and am much encouraged as the leadership he has already provided in the few short weeks he has been with us. We will launch a search for the Vice President Academic & Research this semester as Dr. Hank Bestman has indicated that he would like to retire as of June 2019. This is a critical position for us and much care will be given to consulting and involving the faculty, Senate and Board.

Finally, in the words of Hebrews 12: 1-3, let us run the race that is before us knowing that there is a great cloud of witnesses and that God is faithful (Hebrews 12:1-3). I look forward to all that God will do in us and through us in the upcoming year.

Submitted by: Melanie Humphreys, Ph.D., President
 The King's University

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